IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicle traveling speed pattern estimation device comprising:

traveling information storing means for storing travel data comprising at least vehicle speed and position of the vehicle and travel environment data comprising at least date-and-time and weather information as mutually associated data, exclusive of the travel data;

candidate traveling speed pattern generating means for generating plural a candidate traveling speed patterns on the basis of only the travel data stored in said traveling information storing means; and

estimated traveling speed pattern outputting means for extracting one candidate traveling speed pattern matching current travel environment data from among the generated traveling speed patterns and outputting an estimated traveling speed pattern for a route to be followed.

2. (Currently amended) The vehicle traveling speed pattern estimation device according to claim 1, further comprising:

frequent route specifying means for specifying a frequently used route on the basis of the travel data; and

dividing means for dividing the frequently used route into short sections, wherein

the candidate traveling speed pattern generating means generates the candidate traveling speed patterns for each of the short sections, and

2

the estimated traveling speed pattern outputting means extracts one a candidate traveling speed pattern for each of the short sections, and outputs an estimated traveling speed pattern for the specified frequently used route.

3. (Previously presented) The vehicle traveling speed pattern estimation device according to claim 2, wherein

the candidate traveling speed pattern generating means classifies the travel data for each of the short sections on the basis of an average traveling speed for each of the short sections or a degree of similarity among traveling speed patterns for each of the short sections, and generates a traveling speed pattern representing a set of the classified travel data for each of the short sections as the candidate traveling speed pattern.

4. (Previously presented) The vehicle traveling speed pattern estimation device according to claim 2, wherein

the estimated traveling speed pattern outputting means extracts travel data matching current traveling environment data for each of the short sections, extracts a candidate traveling speed pattern representing a set to which a greatest number of the travel data belong, and outputs the estimated traveling speed pattern.

5. (Previously presented) The vehicle traveling speed pattern estimation device according to claim 1, wherein

the travel environment data include date, hour, day of the week, information on

3

operation of on-board equipment including at least a wiper and a headlight, and sensing information obtained from on-board sensors including a raindrop sensor.

6. (Previously presented) A vehicle traveling speed pattern estimation method comprising the steps of:

storing travel data comprising at least vehicle speed and position of the vehicle and travel environment data comprising at least date-and-time and weather information as mutually associated data;

generating candidate traveling speed patterns on the basis of only the stored travel data; and

extracting a candidate traveling speed pattern matching current travel environment data from among the generated candidate traveling speed patterns and outputting an estimated traveling speed pattern for a route to be followed.